

At Vatican Request

64 Catholic Hospitals to Ban Tubal Ligations

By NC News Service
At the request of the Vatican, the Sisters of Mercy of the Union have banned tubal ligations in their 64 hospitals across the United States. Bishop James Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, acting for the Vatican's Congregation for Religious, ordered the move, said Sister Theresa Kane, superior of the sisters, in an Oct. 27 letter to the order's 4,300 members. The Sisters of Mercy of the Union run more Catholic hospitals in the United States than any other religious or-

der. At least 25 of those hospitals had been allowing tubal ligations, a sterilization procedure, according to a 1979 study by the order which led to the Vatican action. Bishop Malone said in a telephone interview Nov. 21 that he was chairman of a "verification committee" which the Vatican agency named in March 1982. The Holy See asked the committee "to verify with Sister Kane and the members of her administrative team what was their policy" with regard to

tubal ligations, he said. He added that the policy of Sisters of Mercy hospitals on tubal ligations "was the only question at issue" for the committee. The other committee members, he said, were Bishop William Keeler of Harrisburg, Pa., and Auxiliary Bishop Paul Waldschmidt of Portland, Ore. Bishop Malone, former vice president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and NCCB president since Nov. 17, also said that he reported on the Holy See's request and Sister Kane's response to the nation's bishops at an executive session during the NCCB's annual

meeting in Washington, D.C., Nov. 14-17. He said his committee has reported to the Vatican and was now waiting the Holy See's response. The bishops also noted that the Holy See's intervention followed about three years of discussions by two committees of the NCCB with the Sisters of Mercy on the tubal ligation issue. In 1979 the bishops' Committee on Doctrine requested a copy of the order's study on tubal ligations policies and began discussions with the nuns on the question, Bishop Malone said. Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis became NCCB president in November of that year, he said, and shortly afterward appointed Bishop Malone, then the new vice president of the conference, to head a special NCCB committee to carry on the discussions.

appropriate expression of holistic health care and...failure to provide this service in those circumstances may cause harm to persons." The following year, however, the NCCB reaffirmed its position in a clarification of its medical ethics norms.

"Formal cooperation in the grave evil of contraceptive sterilization either by approving or tolerating it for medical reasons is forbidden and totally alien to the mission entrusted by the church to Catholic health care facilities," it said.

Study New Code, Holy Father Urges

Vatican City (NC) -- Pope John Paul II has urged careful study of the new Code of Canon Law so that ecclesiastical life may be "more profound, more united and better ordered."

The pope said, "this code must be studied seriously to be understood." "Certainly, it takes its place in church tradition, but it brings life to that tradition with the spirit and the norms of the council," the pope said, alluding to Vatican II.

The pope spoke Nov. 21 to a group of 100 Religious who are studying the code at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University. The new code, which took effect as the general law of the Latin church Nov. 27, was enacted by Pope John Paul II on Jan. 25.

The new code is more ecumenical than the old code, more flexible and less centralized. It recognizes lay rights and stresses the pastoral exercising of authority by local bishops.

Pope John Paul called the text "the fruit of a remarkably collegial work" and a "sign of true communion."

Calling the new code the "last document" of the Second Vatican Council, the pope said study of the text "allows us to better appreciate certain council provisions and to avoid the abuses sometimes caused by their misapplication or false interpretation."

Because it is "very different" from the previous general law that has governed the church since 1917, the

NCC Asked To Repudiate Lectionary

Hartford, Conn. (NC) -- Orthodox delegates to the Nov. 9-11 meeting of the National Council of Churches governing board formally repudiated "An Inclusive Language Lectionary," recently produced by the NCC's Division of Education and Ministry.

Sister Kane said in her Oct. 27 letter responding to the Holy See's demands that "after several weeks of intense personal and communal reflection, including extensive consultation within and outside the (Sisters of Mercy) community, we unanimously decided to execute the move" to ban tubal ligations.

They asked the governing board to declare that the lectionary was "produced only by a committee of interested groups and individuals" and did not represent a consensus of the National Council of Churches.

The letter added, however, that research suggested the "appropriateness" of the procedure "when there was serious reason and when prescribed by a physician and with the woman's full consent."

Since the board had not considered or voted on the lectionary, a governing board committee appointed to review the issue said no further action was needed.

Tubal ligation is a surgical procedure in which a woman's Fallopian tubes are sealed, preventing eggs from traveling from the ovaries to the uterus, and thus making her sterile. Catholic moral teaching forbids direct contraceptive sterilization, saying it is contrary to natural law.

NCC General Secretary Claire Randall said all governing board members were notified when the lectionary project was initiated, and that none of them made any response.

The U.S. bishops' ethical directives for Catholic health care facilities say sterilization is permitted when there is no other way to prevent, cure or treat a serious disease. This could be the situation, for example, in the surgical removal of a cancerous uterus or ovary. The directives also allow Catholic facilities to permit contraceptive sterilization under "duress or pressure" -- if, for example, a refusal to allow the procedure could force the hospital's closing.

The lectionary changes many masculine terms to sex-neutral ones and calls God "Father (and Mother)." It contains readings for the liturgical year beginning in Advent 1983. Similar translations will be used for the second and third years of the three-year lectionary cycle.

CARA President Resigns Post

Washington (NC) -- Passionist Father Cassian J. Yuhaus, president of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, submitted his resignation in October, announced Cardinal Lawrence Shehan, chairman of the CARA board of directors.

Most of the hospitals cited "pathological medical indications" as the grounds for the procedure, but among factors that one hospital considered was the likelihood that the woman would conceive an abnormal child. In May 1979 the order's General Administrative Team headed by Sister Kane responded to the study with a statement saying that "tubal ligation, in certain circumstances, is an

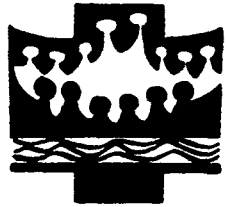
Father Yuhaus, whose resignation will be effective in April, resigned in order to work with religious congregations, dioceses and other church organizations in renewal, the cardinal said.

WANTED: (ROY-NAW-KNEE-AH)

Families interested in becoming a part of "Kamp Koinonia" in '84... SAVE THIS ARTICLE. "KAMP KOINONIA is a 296 acre tract of land, located between Canandaigua and Penn Yan. It has 21 buildings, main lodge, chapel, cabins, campsites, hookups, swimming pool. Many Diocese families have used and enjoyed the facility over the past 6 years. Now the '84 season is in the making. You can be a part of this project. "Kamp Koinonia" is "our Center for Family Renewal" to participate -- Send a self-addressed stamped #10 envelope TODAY. To: KAMP KOINONIA '84, Box 111, Honey Falls, N.Y. 14472-0111. Att.: Earle McIvor. Questions/Comments call me @ 624-4631 after 6 p.m. We believe in Family Renewal and would like to be a part of KAMP KOINONIA in '84!

Insights In Liturgy

By Gretchen Dent



Advent Search

"Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth." ("Sacramentary," First Sunday of Advent, Alternative Opening Prayer)

The words above taken from the alternate opening prayer for the First Sunday of Advent are filled with meaning and imagery for all of us as we begin this season of Advent.

It may seem to be a strange time for beginnings as we begin both the season of Advent and a new liturgical year in the Church. It does not appear to be a season for beginnings as we observe the environment around us. Everything that surrounds us is dying, becoming barren and stark. Each day brings more and more darkness into our lives. The air is cold and bitter and the spring that signifies new life seems far away. We are surrounded by feelings of death, not only from our environment, but from events which seem to loom before us. The threat of nuclear war is ever before us, the death of servicemen in recent weeks, the cries for help from those who are hungry and cold, the devastation of those who are unemployed. Where among all this do we find rejoicing, warmth and light?

Perhaps the Church had great foresight in placing this season where it is, for it is a challenge to find hope amidst the darkness of winter, the gloom of death and the chaos in our world today. And yet, did not our hope rise out of death? Christ's death brought about His resurrection which gave us our greatest hope of all -- our salvation.

We do our best to push away the cold and darkness of this season by lighting fires and filling our homes with light and

color. We go to endless parties to be with friends, laugh with others and fill our lives with love. As Christians, amid all the chaos of the season, we are asked to, and need to, find some time to wait, to prepare and to search. We need to fill ourselves with the warmth and light that Christ can bring into our lives so that we may indeed rejoice in His presence at His coming.

Advent is a season of waiting. We are not waiting for His birth for He has already come. We already have that treasure. We look forward to His final coming with joy and hope, but we need to find His coming now, within each of us in our everyday lives. As Christians, we need to embrace the darkness of Advent and find God amidst the barrenness and darkness of our lives and the world around us. Advent provides us with some time to face ourselves, look closely at our lives and the lives of others and discern His presence. Christ is alive in us now and active in the midst of our failings, confusions and struggles.

It is because of our belief in the fulfillment of the promise He gave to us that we can find joy amidst the turmoil and light amidst the darkness. We need time to allow God to warm our hearts with the power of His love and light up our searching minds with His Word for we are the point of entry for Christ in the world today. We need to discover how God comes to us in ordinary ways, to know His presence and feel His touch upon us, for His coming in the future will never happen unless He can find an entry through us now. The Christ who has already entered our lives will come again to complete the promise which God has made to us.

As Christians, Advent provides us, as a struggling, fragile, hopeful and searching people of God with time to fill ourselves with strength from His love, to find light amidst the darkness and warmth from the cold so that we may truly rejoice in His coming both now and in the future.

COURIER
Fr. Lo Hohn
The Op
Can Effe Cou
Dear Fa At th are wril counells Courier
TO
PUBLICATIO for favors r THANK YOU THANKS to petitions a Blessed Apostles. I
Anyone who and is in OVEREATI please call
ELECTROLY should guarantee electrologi
Em
Help W
Mature coup exchange funeral ho and Son appointme
Buy/S
PIANO - \$ finish w/ now. 3860
DON'T THRO buy your h your ho Fishery, 5
FURS: ANY cash. Con through 8a
Housi
Refrigerator-F feet, side-green. Like
F
SOFA A
Bro tract VERY GI CAL
FLORIDA at the beautif quiet Club r bedroom, 2 b bath. Both ground floor callent rental 13 tennis co Across the st area. Buy no and/or use.
Female seat Brighten. C nature p necessary. greetings.
Wanted: He or repair. rent. CALL: